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CONTACT: Christine Fenner
952-442-5812, cfenner@destinationwaconia.org

New Perspective and Lakeview Clinic Take Top Honors in Waconia Scarecrow Tour

WACONIA, Minn. – The votes are in, and the scarecrows of Waconia were better than ever! The 17th Annual Waconia Scarecrow Tour showcased imaginative entries from 50 businesses, bringing fall vibes to the streets.

New Perspective Senior Living, the **Grand Prize winner**, wowed the judges with a never-before-seen "Back to the 50s" display, a tribute to the golden era of rock 'n roll. With a Nash Metropolitan car, vibrant mums, and pumpkins adding seasonal flair, the scene was a fun throwback that embraced both the senior living community and staff. Judges loved the theme's originality and the craftsmanship, making it an eye-catching feature of the tour.

According to New Perspective Executive Director Natalie Wilkens, the residents submitted theme ideas and the display was created by staff, adding a special touch of nostalgia and engagement. The scarecrow's theme was inspired by a resident family picnic, which included a classic car show, staff in 1950s attire, and a menu of burgers, fries, and floats. The scarecrow featured a banner reading "Betty's Diner," a heartfelt nod to the origins of New Perspective, which was founded by a family searching for a memory care facility for their mother, Betty.

For the second year running, **Lakeview Clinic** snagged the **People's Choice Award** with their timely "Sea's the Day! Let's Fight the Germs" scarecrow, earning 93 votes. Leading the way for Lakeview Clinic's nautical-themed display were Jen Boorsma and Vicky Polunc, whose vision and leadership brought the creative concept to life with the help of their entire team. This collaborative effort earned them the People's Choice Award for the second year in a row.

The **People's Choice** category was brimming with talent this year, with **Philp Family Dentistry's** clever idea for an Inside Out sequel "Riley Goes to the Dentist" featuring detailed characters from the movie with a dental-themed twist. In addition, **Hoxie Homes & Remodeling's** adorable barnyard scene expertly constructed with playful pumpkin farm animals, **Waconia Veterinary Clinic's** meticulously crafted display of pets and farm animals, reflecting their dedication to animal care, and **Title Mark's** interactive Minions photo-opportunity all coming in as top contenders.

Meanwhile, judges gave special recognition to **Nice Shirt Co. / Healing Ink & Art** for their unique and artistic creation, "Let's Make Shroom for Everybody," which stood out for its appeal with a delightful display of woodland whimsy. **Paws Inn Pet Essentials** also made an impression with their "Beware of the Whomping Willow" display, creatively weaving a Harry Potter theme not only into their scarecrow but throughout the entire shop.

This year's tour showcased creativity, with recurring themes ranging from barnyard scenes and Charlie Brown to animated favorites like "Inside Out" and "Despicable Me." With nearly 700 votes cast in the People's Choice category—more than double last year's total—the community's enthusiasm and engagement were undeniable.

The Waconia Scarecrow Tour continues to be a fall tradition, uniting businesses and residents in a celebration of creativity, craftsmanship, and community spirit. Thank you to everyone who participated, voted, and helped make this year's event the best ever!

A panel of judges chose the Grand Prize winner, while the community voted on the People's Choice winner. Out of the submitted community ballots, names were drawn to win prizes donated by Emagine Waconia Theatre, Sota Shine, and the Waconia Chamber of Commerce.

The Waconia Chamber hosts the Waconia Scarecrow Tour annually to highlight member businesses, encourage community engagement, and spotlight Waconia as a fun destination. To see all the scarecrows, visit the Waconia Chamber of Commerce Facebook page or DestinationWaconia.org.

The Waconia Chamber of Commerce is a nonprofit, member-driven organization with a mission to promote a positive business environment and to enhance the quality of life in the Waconia community.

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